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Security Council

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Letter dated 20 March 2012 from the Chair of the Security Council Committee established pursuant to resolution 1373 (2001) concerning counter-terrorism addressed to the President of the Security Council

Attached hereto is the work programme for the Committee established pursuant to paragraph 6 of Security Council resolution 1373 (2001) and its Executive Directorate for 2012 (see annex).

The activities of the Committee will proceed pursuant to the provisions of Security Council resolutions 1373 (2001), 1535 (2004), 1566 (2004), 1624 (2005), 1805 (2008) and 1963 (2010).

The Committee will continue to work with Member States on the implementation of resolution 1373 (2001), guided by the principles of cooperation, transparency, even-handedness and consistency in approach. The Committee will remain focused on monitoring and promoting the implementation by Member States of resolution 1373 (2001) and on taking practical measures to enhance the counter-terrorism capacity of States, including measures aimed at facilitating technical assistance. Continuing its efforts to streamline its working methods, the Committee will update the format of the preliminary implementation assessments and will consider improving the format of global surveys on the implementation of Security Council resolutions 1373 (2001) and 1624 (2005). The Committee will continue to pay close attention to the implementation of Council resolution 1624 (2005) in its dialogue with Member States. The Committee will also continue to contribute to the implementation of the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy.

The Committee welcomes the support it receives from Member States, the United Nations Secretariat and international, regional and subregional organizations and appreciates the assistance of the Counter-Terrorism Committee Executive Directorate.

The Committee would appreciate it if the present letter, together with its annex, were brought to the attention of the members of the Security Council and issued as a document of the Council.

(*Signed*) H. S. **Puri**
Chair
Security Council Committee established pursuant to resolution 1373 (2001) concerning counter-terrorism

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Annex

Work programme of the Counter-Terrorism Committee for 2012

I. Introduction

1. The Counter-Terrorism Committee is required to ensure the full implementation by Member States of Security Council resolution 1373 (2001), in accordance with the provisions of the resolution. The Committee is further directed to include in its dialogue with Member States their efforts to implement Security Council resolution 1624 (2005).

2. Security Council resolutions 1373 (2001) and all subsequent relevant Council resolutions, presidential statements and reports of the Committee constitute guidance for the work of the Committee and its Executive Directorate.

II. Work programme

3. The Committee will continue to pursue a more strategic and transparent approach to its work and seek to raise the visibility of its work within the wider United Nations and counter-terrorism community. In doing so, the Committee, in close consultation with the Executive Directorate and the Secretariat, will continue to streamline its working methods, as appropriate, to allow it to devote more time to achieving the priority objectives set out below.

A. Monitoring and promoting the implementation of resolution 1373 (2001)

4. The Committee and its Executive Directorate will collaborate actively with Member States to facilitate the implementation of resolution 1373 (2001).

5. The Committee will continue to consider the outstanding preliminary implementation assessments in accordance with the revised procedures of the Committee for the stocktaking exercise with respect to progress made by Member States in the implementation of resolution 1373 (2001). It will then send the preliminary implementation assessments and the recommendations to the Member States concerned for appropriate action.

6. The Committee will update the format of the preliminary implementation assessment in order to enhance its usefulness as a diagnostic tool, and in this regard looks forward to reviewing the Executive Directorate's proposals for revitalizing and simplifying the assessment on the basis of the information contained in the Committee's technical guide. The Committee will also review the procedures employed in the stocktaking exercise with a view to identifying shortfalls and ways of improving cooperation with Member States.

7. The Committee will continue discussions on thematic and regional issues proposed by the Chair on the basis of the suggestions made by the members of the Committee, the Executive Directorate and the Counter-Terrorism Implementation Task Force, and will elaborate possible additional practical proposals aimed at facilitating the implementation of the priority recommendations for the future action of the Committee.

8. In close cooperation with the Security Council committee pursuant to resolutions 1267 (1999) and 1989 (2011) concerning Al-Qaida and associated individuals and entities and the Committee established pursuant to resolution 1540 (2004), and in accordance with its mandate, the Committee will pay special attention to States for which information on the implementation of resolution 1373 (2001) is lacking and discuss how best to address the issue and how to enhance the dialogue with those Member States.

9. The Committee will also continue to consider additional ways of addressing the cases of States that do not meet the requirements of resolution 1373 (2001), with a view to increasing their cooperation and dialogue with the Committee.

10. The Committee will follow the status of preparation of visits to be undertaken during the period from January 2012 to December 2013. It will also take steps to ensure that visits conducted to States with their consent enhance their implementation of resolution 1373 (2001) and will assess the results of such visits and consider appropriate follow-up action. The Committee will consider ways to streamline and increase the efficiency of the post-visit follow-up work of the Executive Directorate.

11. The Committee, assisted by the Executive Directorate, will organize a special meeting, open to the wider membership, focusing on the key aspects of the implementation of its mandate.

12. The Committee will conduct, on the basis of a report prepared by the Executive Directorate, an interim review of the Executive Directorate by 30 June 2012, in accordance with resolution 1963 (2010).

13. The Committee, assisted by the Executive Directorate, will explore the possibility of collaborating with the Inter-Parliamentary Union with the primary goal of promoting awareness among parliamentarians and legislatures of the nature of the terrorist threat and the important role that parliaments can play in helping Member States to effectively implement resolutions 1373 (2001) and 1624 (2005).

14. The Committee, assisted by the Executive Directorate, will work towards identifying available practices, elements and good standards that could help Member States develop their respective comprehensive and integrated counter-terrorism strategies, in accordance with Security Council resolution 1963 (2010).

15. The Committee, assisted by the Executive Directorate, will consider improving the format of global surveys on the implementation of resolutions 1373 (2001) and 1624 (2005) in order to further enhance their usefulness.

16. In order to enhance transparency, the Chair of the Committee will continue to hold periodic informal briefings for Member States, as appropriate, on the work of the Committee. In addition, the Chair will request the Executive Directorate, in close cooperation with relevant members of the Counter-Terrorism Implementation Task Force, to hold periodic briefings for Member States on thematic and regional aspects of resolutions 1373 (2001) and 1624 (2005).

17. The Committee continues to call for the closest cooperation among the expert groups of the three Security Council Committees established pursuant to resolutions 1267 (1999) and 1989 (2011), 1373 (2001) and 1540 (2004), including, as appropriate, on information-sharing and visits, and looks forward to receiving

information from the Executive Directorate on the implementation of common strategies.

B. Facilitating technical assistance to States

18. The Committee will pay close attention to the strengthening of the role of the Counter-Terrorism Committee Executive Directorate in facilitating technical assistance for the implementation of resolutions 1373 (2001) and 1624 (2005). In this context, the Committee will continue to look for opportunities to match current and potential donors and providers with recipients in order to enhance the dialogue between the donor community and recipient countries.

19. The Committee, including through the Executive Directorate, will intensify cooperation with relevant international, regional and subregional organizations with a view to enhancing the capacity of Member States to fully implement resolution 1373 (2001) and facilitating the provision of technical assistance.

20. The Committee, with the contribution of the Executive Directorate, and in close cooperation, as appropriate, with the support office of the Counter-Terrorism Implementation Task Force and relevant entities, as well as with other bilateral and regional assistance providers, will continue to assess technical assistance needs with a view to exploring ways of facilitating the provision of assistance to relevant Member States.

C. Maintaining dialogue with States on the implementation of Security Council resolution 1624 (2005)

21. In accordance with resolution 1963 (2010), the Committee will continue to encourage the Executive Directorate to focus increased attention on resolution 1624 (2005) and to work with States to develop strategies aimed at preventing terrorist acts and countering the incitement of terrorist acts motivated by extremism and intolerance, in accordance with their obligations under international law, including human rights law, humanitarian law and refugee law. The Committee will continue to encourage States that have not yet submitted a report on their implementation of resolution 1624 (2005) to do so. The Committee will also guide and support the Executive Directorate in its efforts to achieve the full implementation of its plan of action on the implementation of resolution 1624 (2005), which the Committee approved in March 2011.

22. On the basis of the reports received from States and the information gathered during its on-site visits, the Committee will pursue discussions to explore the needs of States for technical assistance in implementing resolution 1624 (2005) and facilitate the provision of such assistance, as appropriate.

D. Implementing the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy

23. On the basis of the Executive Directorate's participation in the activities of the Counter-Terrorism Implementation Task Force, the Committee will continue to contribute to the implementation of the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy.

24. The Executive Directorate will brief the Committee, on a regular basis, on its activities within the framework of its participation with the Counter-Terrorism Implementation Task Force.

25. The Committee will continue its discussions on issues related to the implementation of the Global Strategy.

III. Other matters

26. The Committee, in close consultation with the Executive Directorate and the Secretariat, will consider possible ways of continuing to streamline its working methods.

27. The Committee will continue its cooperation and dialogue with relevant international and regional organizations on its counter-terrorism endeavours.

Appendix

Work programme of the Counter-Terrorism Committee Executive Directorate for 2012

I. Introduction

1. The work programme of the Counter-Terrorism Committee Executive Directorate for 2012 has been prepared in accordance with the relevant provisions of the report of the Counter-Terrorism Committee on its revitalization (S/2004/124, annex) and takes into account the work programme of the Committee for the same period, as well as directions provided to it by the Security Council in its resolution 1963 (2010).

2. The Executive Directorate will continue to help the Committee to achieve its objectives in the areas defined in the Committee's work programme; to report regularly to the Committee on its work, including in its semi-annual report; and to respond to any additional requests made during the reporting period.

II. Monitoring and promoting the implementation of Security Council resolution 1373 (2001)

A. Monitoring and promoting implementation

3. The Executive Directorate will submit to the subcommittees the outstanding files of Member States, including cover notes, draft letters and preliminary implementation assessments, for consideration and further submission to the Committee as part of its ongoing stocktaking process. The Executive Directorate will also continue its constructive dialogue with Member States, through meetings held at United Nations Headquarters, visits, workshops and videoconferences with officials in the relevant capitals, in order to inform the Committee about the implementation by Member States of elements of the relevant counter-terrorism resolutions, including updates to the preliminary implementation assessments, new counter-terrorism steps taken and updates on the facilitation of technical assistance.

4. The Executive Directorate will assist the Committee in the review of the stocktaking exercise with a view to identifying shortfalls and ways of improving cooperation with Member States. In this context, the Executive Directorate will also submit to the Committee a proposal for revising the format of the preliminary implementation assessment in order to enhance its usefulness as a diagnostic tool and with the overall purpose of revitalizing and simplifying it.

5. In close cooperation with the relevant international, regional and subregional organizations, and on behalf of the Committee, the Executive Directorate will prepare and conduct visits to up to 14 Member States, with their consent, as approved by the Committee. It will also continue to update the Committee on a regular basis regarding follow-up to its previous visits to Member States. Furthermore, the Executive Directorate will submit to the Committee a proposal regarding ways of streamlining and increasing the efficiency of the post-visit follow-up work of the Executive Directorate.

6. The Executive Directorate will assist the Committee in the organization of a special meeting of the Committee open to the wider membership, focusing on key aspects of the implementation of its mandate.

7. The Executive Directorate will assist the Committee in conducting an interim review of the Executive Directorate by 30 June 2012, by preparing and submitting a report to the Committee in accordance with resolution 1963 (2010).

8. The Executive Directorate will contribute to the discussions on thematic and regional issues of relevance to the Committee's work by making presentations to the Committee on issues related to the implementation of resolutions 1373 (2001) and 1624 (2005). The Executive Directorate will also continue to hold thematic and regional briefings for the wider United Nations membership, in accordance with the request of the Committee.

B. Enhancing cooperation towards better implementation of resolution 1373 (2001)

9. The Executive Directorate will further enhance its cooperation with the relevant United Nations bodies, including the Monitoring Team of the Security Council Committee pursuant to resolutions 1267 (1999) and 1989 (2011) concerning Al-Qaida and associated individuals and entities and the group of experts of the Security Council Committee established pursuant to resolution 1540 (2004), as well as with various international, regional and subregional organizations, including in the context of the Committee's visits to States. In this context, the Executive Directorate will further extend the promotion of the common strategy for the submission of responses by States, which was developed jointly with the Monitoring Team and the group of experts, and will continue to share information about relevant technical assistance needs.

10. The Executive Directorate, acting together with donors and other relevant partner organizations, will intensify its regional and subregional approaches to pursue initiatives already launched or planned in the areas of prevention of abuse of the non-profit sector to finance terrorism, illicit cross-border movement of cash and other bearer negotiable instruments, enhancement of the counter-terrorism capacities of police officers and prosecutors, effective border control and management and promotion of cooperation among relevant subregional entities.

11. Under the guidance of the Committee, the Executive Directorate will participate actively in and support all relevant activities under the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy, including through active involvement in the Integrated Assistance for Countering Terrorism initiative of the Counter-Terrorism Implementation Task Force.

III. Facilitating the delivery of technical assistance to States

12. The Counter-Terrorism Committee Executive Directorate will continue to strengthen its role in facilitating technical assistance for the implementation of resolution 1373 (2001) aimed at increasing the capacity of Member States and regions to fight terrorism by addressing their counter-terrorism needs, in close cooperation with the Task Force, other United Nations bodies and bilateral and multilateral assistance providers, and will continue to adopt a focused and regional approach to this work. In this regard, the Executive Directorate will continue to

match identified priority needs with programmes of current and potential donors and providers in order to enhance the capacity of Member States to counter terrorism and to strengthen the dialogue between the donor community and recipient States.

13. The Executive Directorate, in close cooperation with the Task Force, will continue to focus increased attention on resolution 1624 (2005) in its dialogue with Member States, including by facilitating technical assistance to implement strategies, inter alia, to counter the incitement of terrorist acts motivated by extremism and intolerance.

14. The Executive Directorate will intensify cooperation with relevant international, regional and subregional organizations with a view to enhancing the capacity of Member States to fully implement resolutions 1373 (2001) and 1624 (2005) and facilitating the provision of technical assistance.

IV. Human rights and the implementation of resolutions 1373 (2001) and 1624 (2005)

15. In accordance with the Committee's policy guidance on human rights and pursuant to paragraph 10 of resolution 1963 (2010), the Executive Directorate will continue to take into account the human rights aspects of resolutions 1373 (2001) and 1624 (2005). This work will include contributing relevant information for inclusion in the preliminary implementation assessments; ensuring attention to relevant human rights issues in the planning and conduct of country visits; including relevant information in visit reports; and promoting in all its activities a consistent approach to human rights issues relevant to resolution 1373 (2001). The Executive Directorate will continue to liaise with the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, the Special Rapporteur of the Human Rights Council on the promotion and protection of human rights and fundamental freedoms while countering terrorism and other human rights entities, as appropriate. It will also strengthen its analytical framework through continued participation in the Counter-Terrorism Implementation Task Force working group on protecting human rights while countering terrorism.

V. Promoting the implementation of resolution 1624 (2005)

16. With respect to resolution 1624 (2005), the Executive Directorate will continue to include the issue of implementation of the resolution in its dialogue with States and will actively encourage those States that have not yet submitted a report on their implementation of the resolution to do so. The Executive Directorate will continue to introduce thematic discussions on resolution 1624 (2005) at Committee meetings, as appropriate, reflecting on possible approaches to promoting more effective implementation of the resolution and facilitating technical assistance. The Executive Directorate's work on resolution 1624 (2005) will take place in accordance with the Committee's guidance and will, in particular, reflect elements and objectives set out in resolution 1963 (2010). During the reporting period, the Executive Directorate will continue to conduct and provide updates on the various activities identified in the plan of action for the implementation of resolution 1624 (2005) in the light of resolution 1963 (2010).

VI. Counter-Terrorism Committee Executive Directorate Administration and Information Office

17. The Executive L .ectorate will continue to be actively engaged in promoting the Committee's communications strategy in order to enhance understanding of the work of the United Nations. the Committee and the Executive Directorate in the field of counter-terrorism, will be active in promoting and highlighting the special meeting of the Committee, open to the wider membership, to be held in 2012, and will focus on the Committee's efforts to implement the relevant Security Council mandates and the Global Strategy.

18. The Administration and Information Office will continue to update the Committee's website and maintain it in all six official languages of the United Nations. The Executive Directorate will, as needed, continue to update and distribute the Committee's press kits, in printed and electronic formats, and continue to distribute copies of the technical guide to the implementation of Security Council resolution 1373 (2001), in hard copy, in English, and electronically in all six official languages. The 2011 global surveys of the implementation of resolutions 1373 (2001) and 1624 (2005) will continue to be distributed in hard copy, in English, and subsequently in electronic format in all six official languages.

19. The Office will continue to ensure that all documentation submitted to the Committee is accurate and consistent. It will also continue to circulate documents through the "document tracker" located on a secure website in order to promote the effective and timely distribution of information among Member States and the Secretariat. Usernames and passwords will continue to be changed quarterly in order to protect the integrity of the information.

20. The Office will continue to upgrade the database and computer systems of the Executive Directorate, improve access for staff of the Monitoring Team of the Committee pursuant to resolutions 1267 (1999) and 1989 (2011) concerning Al-Qaida and associated individuals and entities and the group of experts of the Committee established pursuant to resolution 1540 (2004) and work to provide access to the staff of the Counter-Terrorism Implementation Task Force and the Terrorism Prevention Branch of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime. Sharing database information promotes greater efficiency and effectiveness in our common work, better integrates the implementation of separate mandates and avoids duplication of effort.

21. The Office will submit to the Controller a budget for the Executive Directorate for 2013 for consideration by the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions and the Fifth Committee of the General Assembly, and will also seek extrabudgetary funding through the recently established trust fund for the Counter-Terrorism Committee Executive Directorate in order to secure resources for activities approved by the Committee that require financial support outside the scope of the regular budget.

United Nations A/66/751–S/2012/173

General Assembly
Security Council

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General Assembly
Sixty-sixth session
Agenda item 43
Question of Cyprus

Security Council
Sixty-seventh year

Letter dated 21 March 2012 from the Permanent Representative of Cyprus to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

Upon instructions from my Government and further to my letter dated 5 December 2011 (A/66/585-S/2011/755), I have the honour to draw your attention to ongoing violations of the international air traffic regulations and the national airspace of the Republic of Cyprus by military aircraft of the Turkish Air Force, recorded from 1 November to 30 November 2011, as follows.

On 1 November 2011, one Cougar Turkish military aircraft violated international air traffic regulations and the national airspace of the Republic of Cyprus.

On 2 November 2011, two CN-235, two F-4, one C-130, one Cougar and one Turkish military aircraft of unknown type violated international air traffic regulations seven times and the national airspace of the Republic of Cyprus four times.

On 4 November 2011, one Cougar Turkish military aircraft violated international air traffic regulations and the national airspace of the Republic of Cyprus.

On 11 November 2011, two F-16 Turkish military aircraft violated international air traffic regulations and the national airspace of the Republic of Cyprus.

On 11 and 12 November 2011, two C-160, one CN-235 and two Cougar Turkish military aircraft violated international air traffic regulations seven times and the national airspace of the Republic of Cyprus seven times.

On 14 November 2011, one F-16 and one Turkish military aircraft of unknown type violated international air traffic regulations three times and the national airspace of the Republic of Cyprus three times.

On 15 November 2011, one F-16 and one Cougar Turkish military aircraft violated international air traffic regulations twice and the national airspace of the Republic of Cyprus twice.

On 16 November 2011, four F-16, two C-160, one C-650, one CN-235 and one Cougar Turkish military aircraft violated international air traffic regulations eight times and the national airspace of the Republic of Cyprus six times.

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On 17 November 2011, six F-16, one C-160, and one CN-235 Turkish military aircraft violated international air traffic regulations six times and the national airspace of the Republic of Cyprus four times.

On 18 and 19 November 2011, one B-200, one CN-235 and one Cougar Turkish military aircraft violated international air traffic regulations five times and the national airspace of the Republic of Cyprus five times.

On 23 November 2011, one CN-235, six F-16, one B-200, one C-160 and two Cougar Turkish military aircraft violated international air traffic regulations nine times and the national airspace of the Republic of Cyprus seven times.

On 24 November 2011, two CN-235, two F-16, two Cougar and one Turkish military aircraft of unknown type violated international air traffic regulations five times and the national airspace of the Republic of Cyprus.

On 25 November 2011, two Cougar Turkish military aircraft violated international air traffic regulations twice and the national airspace of the Republic of Cyprus twice.

On 29 November 2011, one F-16 Turkish military aircraft violated international air traffic regulations and the national airspace of the Republic of Cyprus.

On 30 November 2011, one F-16 Turkish military aircraft violated international air traffic regulations and the national airspace of the Republic of Cyprus.

On behalf of my Government, I strongly protest the continuing violations by Turkey of international air traffic regulations and the national airspace of the Republic of Cyprus and call for their immediate cessation.

These systematic abuses by Turkey of the sovereignty and territorial integrity of the Republic of Cyprus manifestly violate international law and air traffic regulations and seriously jeopardize the safety of international aviation in the region. Such actions are particularly disconcerting in the context of the recent military threats by Turkey against the Republic of Cyprus, related to activity in my country's exclusive economic zone, as well as recent statements by high-ranking Turkish officials threatening annexation of the occupied part of Cyprus.

We would like to reiterate our call to the Government of Turkey to abide by the Charter of the United Nations and its international obligations and respect the sovereignty, independence and territorial integrity of all States Members of the United Nations.

In the context of ongoing negotiations in search of a lasting and peaceful solution to the Cyprus problem, in line with international legality, we call upon Turkey to act in a constructive spirit and substantially support the efforts aimed at reaching a viable solution to the Cyprus problem, in accordance with the agreed basis for such a solution, endorsed by numerous Security Council resolutions.

I should be grateful if you would have the present letter circulated as a document of the General Assembly, under agenda item 43, and of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Minas A. **Hadjimichael**

United Nations A/66/771–S/2012/174

General Assembly
Security Council

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12 April 2012
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General Assembly
Sixty-sixth session
Agenda item 36
The situation in the Middle East

Security Council
Sixty-seventh year

Identical letters dated 21 March 2012 from the Permanent Representative of Lebanon to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General and the President of the Security Council

On instructions from my Government, I transmit herewith a statistical summary of Israeli violations of Security Council resolution 1701 (2006) committed during the month of February 2012 (see annex).

I should be grateful if you would circulate this letter as a document of the sixty-sixth session of the General Assembly, under agenda item 36, and of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Nawaf **Salam**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

12-29277 (E) 130412 200412

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Annex to the identical letters dated 21 March 2012 from the Permanent Representative of Lebanon to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General and the President of the Security Council

Land violations

Date	*Time*	*Nature of violation*
3 February 2012	1035	Two Israeli enemy soldiers crossed the technical fence at coordinates Q:138824-N:147060 opposite the Lebanese observation point of Wazzani by some two metres for approximately 15 minutes.
7 February 2012	1410 1510	The Israeli enemy combed the area around the Summaqah position with medium-weapons fire.
8 February 2012	0025 0235	With a view to closing the road to the Blue Line that passes through a minefield, Israeli enemy forces rolled out some 40 metres of concertina wire at UTM coordinates Q:737280-N:681298, near point TP36 in the vicinity of the Blue Line at Udaysah.
12 February 2012	1140	An Israeli patrol comprising four Merkava tanks and nine individuals drove up to the technical fence opposite the Hassan Gate on the outskirts of Kafr Shuba. Three of them opened a gate in the fence and, passing through it, went some 20 metres in the direction of the area with regard to which Lebanon maintains a claim, taking up combat positions facing Lebanese territory. At about 1200 hours, they left in the direction of occupied territory.
16 February 2012	1910	An Israeli enemy patrol in the occupied town of Ghajar directed 12.7mm weapons towards the Lebanese Army position of Tallat Wazzani.
18 February 2012	1545	An Israeli enemy patrol directed a 12.7mm weapon mounted on one of its vehicles towards soldiers at the Lebanese Army checkpoint of Udaysah.
24 February 2012	1015	While moving from the position of Ya'ra to the position of South Duhayrah, an Israeli enemy patrol directed abuse towards personnel at the Lebanese Army position of Duhayrah.
	1925	Two Israeli enemy soldiers directed a searchlight towards the Lebanese Army observation post of Fatimah Gate.
25 February 2012	0825	A member Israeli enemy patrol at the Fatimah Gate directed obscene gestures and insults and abuse in Arabic towards a young Lebanese woman in the Kafr Killa garden.
	1400	A member of an Israeli enemy patrol at Fatimah Gate directed abuse and insults at a Lebanese Army patrol in the area.

Date	*Time*	*Nature of violation*
28 February 2012	1140	Some 30 Israeli enemy soldiers, divided into three groups, went on ground patrol between the Jabal Shahl and Birkat Naqqar without crossing the line of withdrawal. At 1205 hours, they departed into occupied territory.

Air violations

Date	*Time*	*Nature of violation*
2 February 2012	0935	Two Israeli enemy warplanes violated Lebanese airspace, entering over Alma al-Sha'b. They circled over all regions of Lebanon before leaving at 1115 hours over Kafr Killa.
	1420	An Israeli enemy reconnaissance aircraft violated Lebanese airspace, entering over Naqurah. It circled over the South, Baalbek and Hirmil before leaving at 1520 hours on 3 February over Kafr Killa.
	2255	An Israeli enemy reconnaissance aircraft violated Lebanese airspace, entering over Alma al-Sha'b. It circled over the South before leaving at 0305 hours on 3 February over Naqurah.
3 February 2012	0705	An Israeli enemy reconnaissance aircraft violated Lebanese airspace, entering over Kafr Killa. It circled over the South before leaving at 1735 hours over Alma al-Sha'b.
	0930	Two Israeli enemy warplanes violated Lebanese airspace, entering over Kafr Killa. They circled over all regions of Lebanon before leaving at 1120 hours over Alma al-Sha'b.
	0935	Six Israeli enemy warplanes violated Lebanese airspace, entering over Naqurah. They circled over all regions of Lebanon before leaving at 1100 hours over Rumaysh.
	1840	An Israeli enemy reconnaissance aircraft violated Lebanese airspace, circling over the South before leaving at 1915 hours.
4 February 2012	1519	An Israeli enemy reconnaissance aircraft violated Lebanese airspace, circling over the South before leaving at 1821 hours.
	1754	An Israeli enemy reconnaissance aircraft violated Lebanese airspace, circling over the South before leaving at 2313 hours.
	2130	An Israeli enemy reconnaissance aircraft violated Lebanese airspace, circling over the South before leaving at 2138 hours.
5 February 2012	0555	An Israeli enemy reconnaissance aircraft violated Lebanese airspace, circling over the South before leaving at 1207 hours.
	0650	An Israeli enemy reconnaissance aircraft violated Lebanese airspace, entering over Naqurah. It circled over the South before leaving at 1215 hours over Alma al-Sha'b.

Date	*Time*	*Nature of violation*
	0715	An Israeli enemy reconnaissance aircraft violated Lebanese airspace, entering over Rumaysh. It circled over the South before leaving at 0300 hours on 6 February over Alma al-Sha'b.
	0815	An Israeli enemy reconnaissance aircraft violated Lebanese airspace, entering over the occupied Shab'a Farms. It circled over Riyaq, Baalbek and the Western Bekaa before leaving at 1215 hours over Kafr Killa.
	1230	Four Israeli enemy warplanes violated Lebanese airspace, entering over Kafr Killa. They circled over all regions of Lebanon before leaving at 1345 hours over Alma al-Sha'b.
	1237	An Israeli enemy reconnaissance aircraft violated Lebanese airspace, entering over Alma al-Sha'b. It circled over the South before leaving at 1725 hours over Alma al-Sha'b.
6 February 2012	0413	An Israeli enemy reconnaissance aircraft violated Lebanese airspace, circling over the South before leaving at 1335 hours.
	0705	An Israeli enemy reconnaissance aircraft violated Lebanese airspace, entering over Alma al-Sha'b. It circled over the South before leaving at 1330 hours over Naqurah.
	0715	An Israeli enemy reconnaissance aircraft violated Lebanese airspace, entering over Rumaysh. It circled over the South before leaving at 1255 hours over Alma al-Sha'b.
	0845	An Israeli enemy reconnaissance aircraft violated Lebanese airspace, entering over Rumaysh. It circled over the South before leaving at 1335 hours over Alma al-Sha'b.
	0855	An Israeli enemy reconnaissance aircraft violated Lebanese airspace, entering over Naqurah. It circled over the South, Beirut, the Shuf, Juniyah and Wata al-Jawz before leaving at 1500 hours over Naqurah.
	0900	Four Israeli enemy warplanes violated Lebanese airspace, entering over the sea off Naqurah. They circled over all regions of Lebanon before departing at 1000 hours over Naqurah.
7 February 2012	0945	The Israeli enemy airforce violated Lebanese airspace, circling over the South before leaving at 1025 hours.
	1945	The Israeli enemy airforce violated Lebanese airspace, circling over the South before leaving at 1948 hours.
8 February 2012	0934	The Israeli enemy airforce violated Lebanese airspace, circling over the South before leaving at 1020 hours.
9 February 2012	1410	An Israeli enemy reconnaissance aircraft violated Lebanese airspace, entering over Kafr Killa. It circled over the South before leaving at 2025 hours over Rumaysh.

Date	*Time*	*Nature of violation*
11 February 2012	1210	An Israeli enemy reconnaissance aircraft violated Lebanese airspace, entering over Naqurah. It circled over the South before leaving at 0640 hours on 12 February over Rumaysh.
12 February 2012	0705	An Israeli enemy reconnaissance aircraft violated Lebanese airspace, entering over Alma al-Sha'b. It circled over the South and Beirut before leaving at 2000 hours over Rumaysh.
	0925	Four Israeli enemy warplanes violated Lebanese airspace, entering over Kafr Killa. They circled over all regions of Lebanon before leaving at 1045 hours over Alma al-Sha'b.
	1100	An Israeli enemy reconnaissance aircraft violated Lebanese airspace, entering over Rumaysh. It circled over the South and Beirut before leaving at 1920 hours over Naqurah.
13 February 2012	0845	An Israeli enemy reconnaissance aircraft violated Lebanese airspace, entering over Naqurah. It circled over the Bekaa and the South before leaving at 1835 hours over Rumaysh.
	0935	An Israeli enemy reconnaissance aircraft violated Lebanese airspace, entering over Naqurah. It circled over the Bekaa, the South and the North before leaving at 0040 hours on 14 February over Rumaysh.
	1000	An Israeli enemy reconnaissance aircraft violated Lebanese airspace, entering over Rumaysh. It circled over the South before leaving at 1725 hours over Alma al-Sha'b.
	1110	The Israeli enemy airforce violated Lebanese airspace, circling over the South before leaving at 1210 hours.
	1315	The Israeli enemy airforce violated Lebanese airspace, circling over the South before leaving at 1330 hours.
	2005	An Israeli enemy reconnaissance aircraft violated Lebanese aircraft, entering over Kafr Killa. It circled over the South and Iqlim al-Kharrub before leaving at 0650 hours on 14 February over Alma al-Sha'b.
	2255	An Israeli enemy reconnaissance aircraft violated Lebanese aircraft, entering over Naqurah. It circled over the South, the Bekaa and the North before leaving at 1410 hours on 14 February over Naqurah.
14 February 2012	0700	An Israeli enemy reconnaissance aircraft violated Lebanese aircraft, entering over Naqurah. It circled over the South before leaving at 1425 hours over Naqurah.
15 February 2012	0826	An Israeli enemy aircraft violated Lebanese airspace, circling over the South before leaving at 0838 hours.

Date	*Time*	*Nature of violation*
	0945	Two Israeli enemy warplanes violated Lebanese airspace, entering over Kafr Killa. They circled over all regions of Lebanon before leaving at 1350 hours over Alma al-Sha'b.
16 February 2012	1337	Four Israeli enemy warplanes violated Lebanese airspace, entering over Kafr Killa. They circled over all regions of Lebanon before leaving at 1522 hours over Kafr Killa.
	1500	An Israeli enemy warplane violated Lebanese airspace, circling over the South before leaving at 1645 hours.
20 February 2012	0359	An Israeli enemy reconnaissance aircraft violated Lebanese airspace, circling over the South before leaving at 1649 hours.
	0605	An Israeli enemy reconnaissance aircraft violated Lebanese airspace, circling over the South before leaving at 1853 hours.
	0610	An Israeli enemy reconnaissance aircraft violated Lebanese airspace, entering over Naqurah. It circled over the South, Beirut and its suburbs before leaving at 1815 hours over Naqurah.
	0900	An Israeli enemy reconnaissance aircraft violated Lebanese airspace, entering over Naqurah. It circled over Beirut before leaving at 1505 hours over Naqurah.
	1213	Four Israeli enemy warplanes violated Lebanese airspace, entering over Alma al-Sha'b. They circled over all regions of Lebanon before leaving at 1330 hours over Naqurah.
21 February 2012	1002	Eight Israeli enemy warplanes violated Lebanese airspace, two entering over Kafr Killa and six over the occupied Shab'a Farms area. They all circled over all regions of Lebanon before leaving at 1145 hours over Naqurah.
	1400	An Israeli enemy reconnaissance aircraft violated Lebanese airspace, entering over Naqurah. It circled over the South before leaving at 0750 hours on 22 February over Kafr Killa.
	1415	Six Israeli enemy warplanes violated Lebanese airspace, four entering over Kafr Killa and two over Naqurah. They all circled over all regions of Lebanon before leaving at 1630 hours over Alma al-Sha'b.
22 February 2012	0650	An Israeli enemy reconnaissance aircraft violated Lebanese airspace, entering over Alma al-Sha'b. It circled over the South before leaving at 1955 hours over Alma al-Sha'b.
	0850	An Israeli enemy reconnaissance aircraft violated Lebanese airspace, entering over Kafr Killa. It circled over the Bekaa and the North before leaving at 1350 hours over Naqurah.

Date	*Time*	*Nature of violation*
	1605	An Israeli enemy reconnaissance aircraft violated Lebanese airspace, entering over Kafr Killa. It circled over the Western Bekaa and the South before leaving at 1740 hours over Rumaysh.
23 February 2012	1155	The Israeli enemy airforce violated Lebanese airspace, circling over the South before leaving at 1345 hours.
	2310	An Israeli enemy reconnaissance aircraft violated Lebanese airspace, entering over Rumaysh. It circled over the South before leaving at 0610 hours on 24 February over Naqurah.
24 February 2012	1000	The Israeli enemy airforce violated Lebanese airspace, circling over the South before leaving at 1041 hours.
25 February 2012	1120	The Israeli enemy airforce violated Lebanese airspace, circling over the South before leaving at 1205 hours.
26 February 2012	0945	The Israeli enemy airforce violated Lebanese airspace, circling over the South before leaving at 1005 hours.
	1020	The Israeli enemy airforce violated Lebanese airspace, circling over the South before leaving at 1025 hours.
	1040	The Israeli enemy airforce violated Lebanese airspace, circling over the South before leaving at 1045 hours.
27 February 2012	0615	An Israeli enemy reconnaissance aircraft violated Lebanese airspace, entering over Naqurah. It circled over Beirut, Baalbek, Hirmil and the South before leaving at 1600 hours over Rumaysh.
	0940	An Israeli enemy reconnaissance aircraft violated Lebanese airspace, entering over Naqurah. It circled over the Shuf, Beirut and the South before leaving at 0615 hours on 28 February over Rumaysh.
	2025	The Israeli enemy airforce violated Lebanese airspace, circling over the South before leaving at 2100 hours.
	2130	The Israeli enemy airforce violated Lebanese airspace, circling over the South before leaving at 2135 hours.
	2140	The Israeli enemy airforce violated Lebanese airspace, circling over the South before leaving at 2150 hours.
	2210	The Israeli enemy airforce violated Lebanese airspace, circling over the South before leaving at 2220 hours.
	2235	The Israeli enemy airforce violated Lebanese airspace, circling over the South before leaving at 2240 hours.
28 February 2012	0810	Two Israeli enemy warplanes violated Lebanese airspace, entering over Rumaysh. They circled over all regions of Lebanon before leaving at 0940 hours over Alma al-Sha'b.

Date	*Time*	*Nature of violation*
	0940	The Israeli enemy airforce violated Lebanese airspace, circling over the South before leaving at 0945 hours.
	1155	The Israeli enemy airforce violated Lebanese airspace, circling over the South before leaving at 1200 hours.
	1240	The Israeli enemy airforce violated Lebanese airspace, circling over the South before leaving at 1245 hours.

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Security Council

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Report of the Secretary-General on the situation in Abyei

I. Introduction

1. The present report is submitted pursuant to paragraph 13 of Security Council resolution 2032 (2011), in which the Council requested the Secretary-General to continue to inform it of progress in implementing the mandate of the United Nations Interim Security Force in Abyei (UNISFA) at 60-day intervals, and to continue to bring to its attention any serious violations of the Agreement between the Government of the Sudan and the Sudan People's Liberation Movement on Temporary Arrangements for the Administration and Security of the Abyei Area (S/2011/384, annex), signed on 20 June 2011 in Addis Ababa. In the present report, reference is also made to paragraph 5 of Council resolution 2024 (2011), by which the Council requested the Secretary-General to keep it informed of progress in implementing the additional tasks listed in paragraph 1 of the resolution. The report provides an update on the situation in Abyei and on the deployment and operations of UNISFA since the previous report on the matter, of 27 January 2012 (S/2012/68).

II. Security situation

2. During the period under review, the security situation remained tense and highly unpredictable owing to the continued presence of unauthorized armed forces in the Abyei Area, in violation of the 20 June 2011 Agreement, the ongoing large-scale migration of Misseriya nomads and the return of displaced Ngok Dinka.

3. As of 6 March 2012, the Sudanese armed forces and police maintained their presence in the area north of the Kiir/Bahr el-Arab River, especially in Abyei town, Goli, Baloom and the Diffra area. In accordance with a request from UNISFA, the Sudanese Armed Forces, currently at a strength of 400-500 troops located in Abyei town, Goli, Diffra and Baloom, continued to restrict their movement to the north of the Area and exclusively during daytime, and also refrained from carrying out any operational tasks. The Sudanese Armed Forces has also redeployed the Sudan Police Service from Dokura to Abyei.

4. An approximately 720-strong South Sudan Police Service remained present in the area south of the Kiir/Bahr el-Arab River, particularly in the areas of Agok, Abatok, Awang Thou, Rumamier and Mabok. Further, the South Sudan Police Service has received new elements, which are performing operational tasks in Agok and the surrounding villages. The Sudan People's Liberation Army (SPLA)

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continued to maintain its brigade headquarters in Mijan Kol, approximately 3 km south of Agok and the Abyei Area boundary, as established on 9 November 2011. That headquarters has a strength of 300 soldiers. UNISFA also reported the sporadic movement of SPLA soldiers into and out of the Abyei Area. On several occasions in January and February 2012, UNISFA requested the authorities of South Sudan to take all necessary measures to redeploy outside the Abyei Area or contain the South Sudan Police Service, including through a reduction in their size and the number of weapons in their possession, but this has not occurred.

5. As of 15 March 2012, over 5,000 displaced Ngok Dinka had returned to their villages in the Abyei Area. The annual southward migration of Misseriya nomads through the Abyei Area continued during the reporting period through the central, south-eastern and south-western corridors of the Abyei Area. It is estimated that, as of 15 March, over 110,000 Misseriya nomads, with over two million cattle and 112,000 goats, sheep and donkeys were in the Abyei Area, with the largest concentration of nomads in the western corridor through Alal and Raigork and in the eastern corridor through Um Khariet and Thurpader.

6. Regular daily patrols by UNISFA focused on sensitive areas that were receiving both returnees and nomads, including Marial Achak, Rumamier, Kolognal, Atay and Luffong in Sector South, Noong, Alal, Tejalei, and Leu in Sector Centre, and Diffra, Goli, Mekines, Um Khariet, Todach, Dumboloya, and Thurpader in Sector North. In order to ensure the security of and better protect returnees and nomads, UNISFA continued to man checkpoints and control all movements in Abyei town and other sensitive areas.

7. The limited access to water and grazing land for the Misseriya resulted in two security incidents during the reporting period. On 13 February, an unidentified armed group shot and killed 11 Misseriya cattle in Cwein, on the south-eastern flank of the Abyei Area. Further, the Misseriya admitted that some nomads had failed to obtain prior authorization from the relevant joint security committee prior to moving their cattle to water and grazing land in Cwein. The prior sanctioning of movement is subject to approval by the joint security committee, as agreed by both communities at the beginning of February. Following the incident, in order to prevent the escalation of tensions and any further such incidents, UNISFA convinced the Misseriya community to refrain from any retaliatory action and assured the Ngok Dinka community that UNISFA has the security situation under its control. Further, UNISFA also intensified its patrols in order to enhance its presence in both the south-eastern and south-western flanks of the Abyei Area.

8. The second incident took place on 22 February, when UNISFA requested a group of Misseriya nomads with approximately 12,000 cattle in Cwein not to proceed with their migration towards the Kiir/Bahr el-Arab River because they had not obtained prior authorization for their movement from the relevant joint security committee. Concurrently, South Sudan Police Service elements from Agok arrived at the southern edge of the river with heavy machine guns and threatened the nomads. The intervention of UNISFA defused the situation by securing the withdrawal of the South Sudan Police Service from the area.

9. During the period under review, the United Nations Mine Action Service continued landmine and explosive remnants of war clearance, according to mission priorities. Two additional routes were opened for use by UNISFA military units: Majak to Dungoup and Leu to Um Khariet Junction, while two routes (Banton-

Rumamier and Banton-Mading), were opened for humanitarian access. In addition to the route verification team, two United Nations Mine Action Service area survey teams were deployed to the Abyei Area to villages north of the Kiir/Bahr el-Arab River along the Banton-Rumamier road.

10. In addition, an Ethiopian demining platoon was tasked with taking action in dangerous areas contaminated with unexploded ordnance and mines, which they safely destroyed, in Noong, Alal and Tejalei.

III. Political developments

11. The final status of the Abyei Area remains to be resolved and very little progress was made on the implementation of the 20 June 2011 Agreement. The parties remain deadlocked over the nomination of the Abyei Area Administration, despite considerable efforts by the African Union High-level Implementation Panel to find a compromise. The only functioning body envisaged under the 20 June Agreement is the Abyei Joint Oversight Committee, which has held three meetings since its launch in September 2011.

12. The fourth meeting of the Abyei Joint Oversight Committee, originally scheduled to be held on 20 February, was delayed at the request of the Government of the Sudan, which cited that more time was required for an effective and full implementation of the decisions previously adopted by the Committee. The facilitator of the African Union Commission to the Committee and UNISFA actively engaged with the parties in order to determine a suitable date for the next meeting, which is yet to take place.

13. Most of the progress made on the implementation of the 20 June Agreement was based on efforts to operationalize, with support from UNISFA and the African Union facilitator to the Abyei Joint Oversight Committee, the decisions adopted during the third meeting of the Committee, held in Abyei on 18 and 19 January 2012, namely: provisions on humanitarian assistance, the return of displaced persons and migration of nomads without weapons; the establishment and functioning of the secretariat of the Abyei Joint Oversight Committee in Abyei; the establishment of a follow-up mechanism for the implementation of decisions of the Committee; the composition of the Joint Military Observer Committee and of the Joint Military Observer Teams; initial steps required for the formation of the Abyei Police Service; and the convening of "coexistence conferences" between the communities. As part of these efforts, on 3 February, UNISFA provided the co-chairs of the Abyei Joint Oversight Committee with a draft proposal for the terms of reference for the Joint Military Observer Committee. Under the 20 June Agreement, the Joint Military Observer Committee is mandated to liaise with UNISFA on security matters in the Abyei Area and will consist of an equal number of observers from the Sudan and South Sudan (Sudanese Armed Forces and SPLA).

14. Efforts by UNISFA to operationalize the secretariat of the Abyei Joint Oversight Committee continue. For this purpose, UNISFA recommended to the parties the urgent deployment of the secretaries of the Committee and their corresponding administrative support and offered to provide accommodation within UNISFA headquarters in Abyei town as a temporary solution for the establishment of the secretariat. UNISFA also proposed to the parties that the secretaries of the Committee be made members of joint committees composed of the Abyei Joint

Oversight Committee and UNISFA, the first of which is tasked with sensitizing the Ngok Dinka and Misseriya on the processes for unarmed migration and return, the second of which is a "goodwill" committee tasked with engaging with the Ngok Dinka and Misseriya leadership and encouraging them to work closely with UNISFA on the implementation of its mandate.

15. Further to the decision of the Abyei Joint Oversight Committee to establish regular contact with the heads of the United Nations country teams for the Sudan and South Sudan, the Government of South Sudan co-chair of the Committee, Luka Biong Deng, held a meeting in Juba on 6 February, with the United Nations resident and humanitarian coordinators and the humanitarian country team in South Sudan. The meeting featured a briefing on the latest decisions of the Committee and the discussions focused on requirements for humanitarian access to the Abyei Area. The co-chair also visited areas of return and migration in the Abyei Area, from 2 to 4 March, where he discussed ways of ensuring a peaceful and orderly return of the Ngok Dinka and migration of nomads with members of the Misseriya community. An understanding was reached to organize a joint meeting with both communities in order to address those issues.

16. In preparation for the next meeting of the Abyei Joint Oversight Committee, the Government of the Sudan co-chair, Alkheir Alfaheem Almaki, along with the President of the Sudan and Government ministers, reviewed the necessary practical arrangements that must be taken in order to meet the administrative and financial requirements for the implementation of the decisions of the Committee.

IV. Joint Border Verification and Monitoring Mechanism

17. The implementation of the Agreement between the Government of the Sudan and the Government of South Sudan on Border Security and the Joint Political and Security Mechanism, of 29 June 2011, and of the Agreement on the Border Monitoring Support Mission between the two Governments, of 30 July 2011, was given some impetus following the second meeting of the Joint Political and Security Mechanism in Addis Ababa on 10 February. During the meeting, the Governments of the Sudan and South Sudan signed a memorandum of understanding on non-aggression and cooperation in which they committed to not interfering in each other's internal affairs, respecting each other's sovereignty and territorial integrity, and not using force in the conduct of their relations. Further, the parties also decided to immediately establish the Joint Border Verification and Monitoring Mechanism and requested the African Union High-level Implementation Panel to address the issue of the border maps with the two Presidents.

18. On 7 March, in the context of the subsequent round of negotiations held in Addis Ababa, the African Union High-level Implementation Panel convened a meeting with the two parties to further discuss the establishment of the Joint Border Verification and Monitoring Mechanism. The importance of the activation of the Mechanism was underscored, given its potential to reduce escalating tensions, and an agreement was reached on the need for the Presidents to intervene directly at the political level to remove the obstacles and prevent delays in its operationalization. It was also agreed that UNISFA would assist the parties with an "area of operations" map to overcome the dispute on the borderline and present it at the next meeting of the Joint Political and Security Mechanism.

19. Since the signature of the memorandum of understanding, there have been unverifiable reports of troop build-ups, bombings and cross-border attacks in both the Sudan and South Sudan. Further, the two parties have also exchanged accusations of supporting each other's respective rebel movements. Having in mind the importance of the Joint Border Verification and Monitoring Mechanism in this tense security situation, UNISFA continued to move ahead with the implementation of its expanded mandate, namely to support the Mechanism, pursuant to Security Council resolution 2024 (2011).

20. The United Nations Interim Security Force in Abyei has commenced an overview of the operational requirements to meet these new tasks, taking conclusions of the reconnaissance mission undertaken in August 2011 in accordance with paragraph 5 of the Agreement on the Border Monitoring Support Mission. In particular, UNISFA plans to adopt a phased deployment approach, immediately focusing on providing support in the areas of the border with the highest security concerns.

V. Humanitarian situation

21. Humanitarian organizations in South Sudan continued to provide relief assistance to approximately 115,000 displaced persons and returnees in the Agok area, Warrap State and other areas of South Sudan. Support to returnees is increasing, particularly as regards health and water and sanitation, but many parts of the Abyei Area still remain inaccessible due to the threat of mines and explosive remnants of war.

22. The trend of voluntary returns of displaced persons from Agok to areas north of the Kiir/Bahr el-Arab River continued slowly. United Nations agencies, however, were unable to independently verify their numbers. It is also unclear whether reported returns are permanent or only temporary visits to assess conditions or maintain a link until a more permanent return becomes possible. The World Food Programme is currently conducting a re-verification exercise. The United Nations Children's Fund continued working on family tracing and reunification activities and established child-friendly spaces in 20 villages south of the Kiir/Bahr el-Arab River, with nearly 2,000 children attending those facilities. United Nations agencies agreed to establish a durable solutions working group, chaired by the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, to assess trends and opportunities for lasting solutions and implement a mechanism for the verification of voluntariness, safety and sustainability of returns and for the provision of appropriate support.

23. Living conditions in the three main areas of displacement (Mayan Abun, Marial Achak, and Majak Kual/Turalei) remain challenging. Basic needs continue to be met, but the increasingly protracted nature of the displacement indicates that regular monitoring and targeted support is required. With over 100,000 displaced persons from Abyei remaining in displacement, it is unlikely that they will return to their homes in time to cultivate their crops during the upcoming agricultural season. Given the need for continued assistance and the lack of access to the Abyei Area from the Sudan, the World Food Programme is making arrangements to pre-position food supplies from South Sudan.

24. Meanwhile, the International Organization for Migration is scaling up its community assistance in Diffra and Goli to prevent an outbreak of waterborne diseases, and Misseriya nomads also expressed deep concern over the lack of animal vaccines. Animal vaccines, which the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations has dispatched to the Abyei Area, have yet to receive clearance from the Humanitarian Aid Commission of the Sudan and remain in Kadugli.

VI. Protection of civilians

25. During the reporting period, UNISFA did not identify an increase in the threats to the civilian population in the Abyei Area. Protection monitoring by the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees has also not revealed any protection incidents among displaced persons, or between the displaced and host or other communities.

26. Through engagement with the Misseriya and Ngok Dinka leadership structures and relevant Government officials on both sides, UNISFA continued to implement its multifaceted protection response mechanism and conducted intensive day and night military patrols. Further, UNISFA supported the effective functioning of the 17 joint security committees in the Abyei Area, which are composed of representatives of UNISFA and of the local Ngok Dinka or Misseriya communities and are tasked to assess, plan for and implement the security arrangements for the organized return of displaced persons and movement of nomads. The Head of Mission, Lieutenant-General Tadesse Werede Tesfay, has also tasked the committees with sensitizing the local communities to the need for and value of reconciliation as a prerequisite for lasting peace and stability.

27. UNISFA continued to implement its conflict mitigation strategy designed to provide for a peaceful and orderly migration of nomads and return of displaced persons through engagement with both the local communities and relevant Government authorities. Several joint security committees, north and south of the Kiir/Bahr el-Arab River, have been tasked to assess the availability of such access in their respective areas. On 9 February, UNISFA facilitated an agreement between the Misseriya and the authorities and local communities in Bentiu, Unity State, South Sudan, and SPLA, under which the Misseriya would be granted access to water and grazing land in that State.

28. On 16 February, UNISFA organized the first joint meeting of local community leaders of both communities in Abyei town. The meeting was attended by a Misseriya delegation from the south-eastern flank of the Abyei Area and a Ngok Dinka delegation from Marial Achak. Their representatives agreed to continue the process of facilitating the peaceful and orderly migration and return of displaced persons, regularly convene inter-community consultation meetings, and discuss practical ways of better controlling the movement of members of their respective communities. Both delegations also condemned the security incident in Cwein, referred to in paragraph 7 of the present report.

29. A follow-up meeting of the two communities was scheduled for 22 February, but the Ngok Dinka representatives were not in attendance. Subsequent to the meeting, however, Misseriya representatives from the south-eastern flank of the Abyei Area held consultations with the joint security committee in Click and agreed to conduct their migration unarmed, adhere to previously designated routes and not

to pass through Ngok Dinka-occupied villages, adhere to the agreement reached with the authorities in Unity State, South Sudan, and attend inter-community consultation meetings with the Ngok Dinka representatives when the latter express a desire to meet.

30. With regard to the operationalization of paragraph 10 of resolution 1990 (2011) and the letters sent by the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights to the Government of the Sudan and the Government of South Sudan in November 2011, only the Government of the Sudan corresponded with the Department of Peacekeeping Operations, on 15 February, rejecting any inclusion of a human rights component in UNISFA.

VII. Deployment of the United Nations Interim Security Force for Abyei

31. As at 15 March, the military component of UNISFA comprised 3,800 of the 4,200 troops that had been authorized (see annex I). Those forces were deployed to operating bases to respond to assessed potential threats or destabilizing situations. In Sector North, the second battalion deployed in company strength to operating bases in Diffra, Todach, Um Khariet, Shegag, and with platoons in Dungoup and Wutgok. In Sector Centre, the first battalion was deployed in company strength to operating bases in Abyei town, Tejalei, Leu and at platoon level in Noong and Alal. In Sector South, the third battalion was deployed in company strength to operating bases in Agok, Banton, Marial Achak, Athony, and at platoon level in Agany Achung, Banton Bridge, Luffong and Wunrok (see annex II, UNISFA deployment map). Sector North and Centre are respectively reinforced with one tank company and one artillery battery.

32. Taking into account the ongoing migration in the south-west and east of the Abyei Area and the return of some displaced persons to north of the Kiir/Bahr el-Arab River, UNISFA, within its means covered the vast majority of the Abyei Area and conducted extensive day and night patrols, using tanks and armoured personnel carriers to deter threats, and increased its visibility with a view to facilitating the peaceful and orderly migration and return. UNISFA strengthened its presence and conducted patrols in areas that are identified as risk-prone and where friction between Ngok Dinka and Misseriya is more likely. No restrictions on freedom of movement were reported and both parties, the Sudanese Armed Forces, the Sudan Police Service and the South Sudan Police Service displayed a positive posture towards UNISFA.

33. In order to further increase its visibility and improve its credibility and deterrent effect, UNISFA will complement its two civilian helicopters with the deployment of two tactical helicopters once the necessary construction work on the airstrips is completed. Arrangements with the Government of Ethiopia for the deployment of two military utility helicopters have been finalized and deployment is expected by the end of March 2012.

34. Major stumbling blocks for the establishment of the Abyei Police Service remain, namely, the absence of the Abyei Area Administration, the non-availability of other components of the criminal justice system, and the lack of progress on the implementation of the 20 June Agreement, signed in Addis Ababa. The

establishment of a migration and oil security police unit within the Abyei Police Service is urgently needed.

VIII. Mission support

35. On 13 March, the Government of the Sudan granted visas to 28 UNISFA civilian staff members and 27 UNISFA rations and communications contractors. In addition, 23 employees of a contractor and five military staff officers were issued with residence visas. The granting of those visas for UNISFA civilian staff and contractors should contribute significantly towards the mission's ability to fulfil its mandate.

36. As of 15 March, the United Nations Mine Action Service still awaits the issuance of visas for five staff members and the renewal of 73 visas for its route verification and multitasking team personnel. On the military side, only five non-Ethiopian staff officers out of a total of 41, and no non-Ethiopian United Nations military observers, out of a total of 65, have obtained visas.

37. Access to the Abyei Area will be considerably hampered during the forthcoming rainy season, as both the Wau-Abyei and the Kadugli-Abyei roads are routinely cut off, owing to heavy seasonal rains. Last year, the Abyei Area was inaccessible by road for more than four months (July to October) and the mission had to airlift all supplies. UNISFA is working towards increasing its storage capacity, so that it is able to store at least a four-month supply of dry and frozen rations. Further, UNISFA is currently engaged in negotiations to formalize the transfer of the unused portion of the Kadugli logistics base to the United Nations Children's Fund, which had been transferred to UNISFA during the process of liquidating the United Nations Mission in the Sudan (UNMIS) in November 2011.

38. Living conditions in UNISFA tented camps continue to be very challenging and will become extreme during the rainy season. Further, existing camps in Abyei town, Agok and Diffra are in poor condition and need to be refurbished and expanded. In the light of this situation, preparations for the construction of prefabricated accommodation in Abyei town, Agok and Diffra are ongoing. It is expected that the foundation and base for the hard wall accommodation will commence by the end of April, two months ahead of the rainy season. Personnel from the Global Service Centre in Brindisi and material handling equipment from neighbouring missions will be temporarily redeployed to assist UNISFA in the erection of these structures.

39. Pending formal endorsement by the Joint Political and Security Mechanism of the remaining operational details of the Joint Border Verification and Monitoring Mechanism, the mission has begun preliminary planning for construction work that will be required at the sites. In addition, preliminary planning, identification and sourcing of the envisaged air assets (four rotary and two fixed wings) has also begun.

IX. Financial implications

40. The General Assembly, in its resolution 66/241 of 24 December 2011, appropriated the amount of $175,500,000 for the maintenance of the United Nations

Interim Security Force for Abyei for the period from 1 July 2011 to 30 June 2012. Should the Security Council decide to extend the mandate of UNISFA beyond 27 May 2012, the cost of maintaining the Force until 30 June 2012 would be limited to the amounts approved by the General Assembly. As at 20 March 2012, unpaid assessed contributions to the Special Account for UNISFA amounted to $53,200,000. Total outstanding assessed contributions for all peacekeeping operations, as at 20 March, amounted to $2,306,000,000. As of the same date, reimbursement to the contributing Government for troop costs has been made for the period to 31 October 2011, in accordance with the quarterly payment schedule.

X. Observations and recommendations

41. Setting in place the conditions for the peaceful and orderly return of displaced Ngok Dinka and migration of Misseriya nomads represents a critical requirement for restoring genuine and lasting stability to the Abyei Area as a prelude to facilitating inter-community dialogue leading to peaceful coexistence. This, in turn, can help pave the way for determining the future status of the Abyei Area. In this regard, I commend the continued engagement by my Head of Mission, Lieutenant-General Tadesse Werede Tesfay, with the leaders of both communities aimed at reaching a clear understanding of the practical modalities required to make the return of displaced persons and the migration of nomads useful instruments of peace and stability. At the same time, I strongly urge the Governments of the Sudan and South Sudan to take all necessary measures to ensure that their local political representatives and security services in the Abyei Area refrain from any provocative or hostile action likely to jeopardize the security situation or to disrupt the ongoing return of displaced persons and migration of nomads.

42. Improving access to and protection of the affected communities remains a major challenge for the United Nations efforts to stabilize the Abyei Area. In this context, the issuance of visas for 83 UNISFA personnel and contractors is a positive development. I trust that the Government of the Sudan will remain cooperative in this regard and enable UNISFA and other United Nations staff to access the Abyei Area, so as to improve the well-being of the affected communities.

43. The delays in the establishment of the Abyei Area Administration seriously curtail the provision of services to its population. I urge both parties to resolve the deadlock over senior appointments and work with the African Union High-level Implementation Panel to find a practical solution to the implementation of this provision of the 20 June Agreement. In this regard, the meetings and decisions of the Abyei Joint Oversight Committee have been encouraging, but the postponement of the fourth meeting of the Committee is a matter for concern.

44. The continued presence of unauthorized security forces within the Abyei Area is fundamentally at odds with the spirit of constructive dialogue and mutual accommodation prevailing among members of the Abyei Joint Oversight Committee, as well as with the declared readiness of the local communities to regain their long-standing tradition of coexistence. Given the fact that UNISFA has now taken full control of its operational area, I would like once again to appeal to the Government of the Sudan and the Government of South Sudan to withdraw their armed forces and police from the Abyei Area, to strengthen their cooperation with the African Union High-level Implementation Panel, led by former President Thabo

Mbeki, my Special Envoy for the Sudan and South Sudan, Haile Menkerios, and the UNISFA Head of Mission, towards finding a mutually acceptable solution to all issues that still stand in the way of the implementation of the agreements of 20 June, 29 June and 30 July.

45. Recent efforts by the Governments of the Sudan and South Sudan to ease political tensions prevailing between them constitute an encouraging development in the context of the much-needed confidence-building. In this connection, I commend the decision by both parties to sign a non-aggression pact and to move ahead with the establishment of the Joint Border Verification and Monitoring Mechanism. The effective and expeditious implementation of that Mechanism will require the full cooperation of the Governments of the Sudan and South Sudan, especially with regard to finalizing the logistical requirements for the establishment of the mission headquarters and team sites, ensuring timely deployment of all national monitors, and facilitating unhindered movement of all international monitors, including with regard to the issuance of entry and residence visas. It is in this context that I recommend a six-month extension of mandate, to enable UNISFA to support the operationalization of the Mechanism, further stabilize Abyei and implement the outstanding agreements.

46. Finally, I would like to thank the Prime Minister of Ethiopia, Meles Zenawi, for his ongoing engagement and his Government's commitment to UNISFA. I also commend the African Union High-level Implementation Panel, led by Thabo Mbeki, for facilitating the negotiations in Addis Ababa, with support provided by my Special Envoy. In addition, I express my appreciation to the Head of Mission and the staff of UNISFA for their continued efforts to create a more secure environment for the resumption of normal civilian activities, facilitate the peaceful and orderly return of displaced persons and migration of nomads, and promote inter-community dialogue as a prelude to peaceful coexistence, often under very difficult conditions.

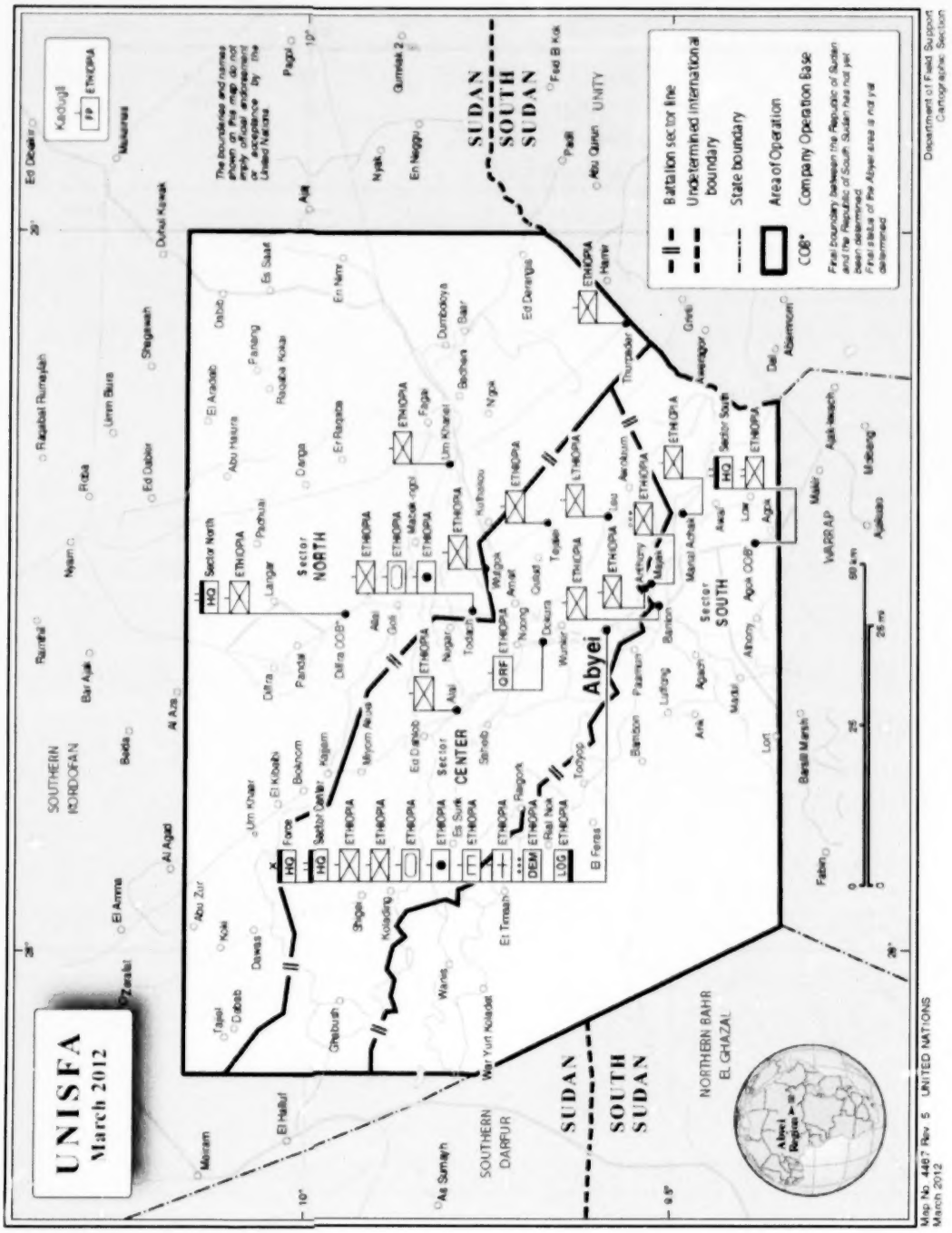
Annex I

Composition of the United Nations Interim Security Force for Abyei military component

Country	*Description*	*Male*	*Female*	*Total*
Ethiopia	Experts on mission	79	4	83
	Contingent troop	3 516	197	3 713
Russian Federation	Contingent troop	2	—	2
Rwanda	Contingent troop	2	—	2
Total				**3 800**

Annex II

Map of the United Nations Interim Security Force for Abyei deployment



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Letter dated 23 March 2012 from the Secretary-General addressed to the President of the Security Council

In accordance with the request of the Security Council in paragraph 21 of resolution 2036 (2012), concerning the implementation of the mandate of the African Union Mission in Somalia, I have the honour to transmit a report dated 20 March 2012 (see annex), which I received from Mr. Jean Ping, Chairperson of the African Union Commission.

I should be grateful if you would bring the present letter and its annex to the attention of the members of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) **BAN** Ki-moon

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Annex

Letter dated 20 March 2012 from the Chairperson of the African Union Commission addressed to the Secretary-General

In line with the request contained in paragraph 21 of resolution 2036 (2012), adopted by the Security Council on 22 February 2012, I have the honour to forward, herewith attached, a report on the efforts deployed by the African Union, in partnership with the United Nations, to implement relevant provisions of the said resolution (see enclosure).

The report provides a narrative of the progress made, the efforts currently under way and planned activities with a view to consolidating security and stability throughout South-Central Somalia, including by establishing a presence in the four sectors, increasing the force strength of the African Union Mission in Somalia (AMISOM) from 12,000 to a maximum of 17,731 uniformed personnel, comprising troops and formed police units, as well as enhancing the effectiveness of the Somali security forces, as set out in the AMISOM Strategic Concept.

I would appreciate it if you would transmit this report to the Security Council.

I would like to seize this opportunity to reiterate the African Union's deep appreciation to the United Nations Security Council and Secretariat for the support extended to AMISOM. I would like, once again, to thank you for your personal commitment and support.

(*Signed*) Jean **Ping**

Enclosure

Report of the Chairperson of the Commission pursuant to paragraph 21 of United Nations Security Council resolution 2036 (2012) on United Nations support to the African Union Mission in Somalia

I. Introduction

1. The present report is submitted pursuant to paragraph 21 of United Nations Security Council resolution 2036 (2012). In that resolution, the Security Council requested the African Union (AU) to keep it regularly informed, through the United Nations Secretary-General, on the implementation of the mandate of the African Union Mission in Somalia (AMISOM) and progress made with regard to establishing AMISOM presence in the four sectors, increasing AMISOM force strength from 12,000 to a maximum of 17,731 uniformed personnel, comprising troops and formed police units (FPUs), as well as enhancing the effectiveness of the Somali National Security Forces (NSF) as set out in the AMISOM Strategic Concept.

2. The present report provides a brief overview of the security situation and outlines the preparatory work and the activities of the AU Commission, AMISOM, troop- and police-contributing countries (TCCs/PCCs) and interested countries, United Nations entities and the Transitional Federal Government (TFG) of Somalia towards the implementation of the AMISOM Strategic Concept, as approved in the communiqué adopted by the AU Peace and Security Council (PSC) at its 306th meeting held on 5 January 2012 [PSC/PR/COMM.(CCCVI)], and the enhancement of AMISOM operations on the ground.

II. Security situation

3. In recent months, the security situation in Mogadishu has significantly improved. AMISOM and TFG's forces gained more ground in the Daynille district, which is on the outskirts of Mogadishu city. The secured locations include Maslah House, Albagedo and Tredisha Hill. In the northern sector of Mogadishu, AMISOM secured the following positions: Maslah military compound, the road from Ex-Control Balaad to Maslah, Slipper factory and Borne factory. AMISOM and TFG forces have also recently gained full control of Karan and Huriwa districts, the last two strongholds of Al-Shabaab in the capital. In the Huriwa district, AMISOM and TFG forces captured the entire Wahar'adde neighbourhood and Dayak livestock market.

4. AMISOM and TFG forces are gradually pushing towards Afgoye and Balaad, which are towns of key tactical importance to Al-Shabaab. The current operations by AMISOM/TFG and loss of ground by Al-Shabaab have triggered an influx of internally displaced persons (IDPs) from the Afgoye corridor to Mogadishu. It is important to highlight the fact that Al-Shabaab has also resorted to a new tactic of infiltrating IDP camps and planting improvised explosive devices (IEDs) and suicide bombs. This situation represents a security challenge to AMISOM. AMISOM and TFG are embarking on an exercise of winning the hearts and minds of the populations concerned to deprive Al-Shabaab of any support, through the implementation of quick impact projects (QIPs).

5. In the Juba and Gedo regions, where the Kenyan Defense Forces (KDF) are operating, it appears that Al-Shabaab has lost momentum. TFG and KDF advanced to within 30 kilometres of Bardhere, the largest city in Gedo, still under the control of Al-Shabaab, capturing the village of Taraaka, on 16 March 2012. Al-Shabaab elements have now resorted to IED attacks. In the Bay, Bakool and Hiraan regions, the key towns of Baidoa and Beledweyne have been captured by the Ethiopian National Defense Forces (ENDF) and Somali forces. Plans are under way to insert AMISOM troops to relieve the ENDF in Baidoa and Beledweyne, which are in Sector 3. However, the gaps left in between these key towns are posing some security challenges, as Al-Shabaab has resorted to attacks against ENDF and TFG supply routes.

III. Status of deployment

6. The total strength of AMISOM uniformed personnel stands currently at 9,961. This includes the Force headquarters staff (76), the Ugandan contingent (5,159), the Burundian contingent (4,627), the advance elements of the Djiboutian battalion (99), and Individual Police Officers (49). The formal re-hatting of the Kenyan contingent (4,660) and the additional Uganda (1,500) and Burundi (1,000) troops, which will be deployed in Sector 3 (Baidoa) by 30 April and for which the predeployment verification and training procedures are under way, will bring the force level to 16,660. The deployment of Djibouti battalion in Sector 4 (Beledweyne) is planned for mid-May 2012, which will bring the force level to 17,530. One FPU from Uganda will deploy in Sector 1 by April 2012. The second FPU is to be provided by Djibouti, and efforts are under way to expedite its deployment.

7. Future deployment will be guided by the sectorization and troops-to-task as outlined in the Strategic Concept, the new AMISOM concept of operations (CONOPS) and the operational benchmarks adopted at the first meeting of the Military Operations Coordination Committee (MOCC), held on 9 March 2012. With technical support from the United Nations, the AU Commission is working towards the finalization of the memorandum of understanding (MoU) and the letter of assist (LoA) with Kenya, to facilitate the integration of the Kenyan forces into AMISOM. The discussions with the Kenyan Government are expected to be finalized soon, for signature to take place by 30 March 2012. The AU Commission has already signed an MoU with Sierra Leone, which is due to deploy its battalion-size contribution to AMISOM in June 2012. These agreements are important in facilitating reimbursement of contingent-owned equipment (COE). Planning is also under way with the United Nations for the first major equipment verification exercise for COE belonging to Kenya.

IV. Other related military and logistical aspects

8. Following the adoption of United Nations Security Council resolution 2036 (2012), the AU Commission, with the support of the United Nations, has begun operationalizing the command and control architecture as contained in the Strategic Concept. As indicated above, the first meeting of the MOCC took place on 9 March 2012. At that meeting, attended by the Chiefs of Defense Force (CDF) of AMISOM TCCs, Ethiopia, Sierra Leone and Somalia, the United Nations and other partners,

the MOCC, which is a strategic-level advisory body chaired by the AU Commissioner for Peace and Security, approved its terms of reference (ToR) and made recommendations to the Commission on the recruitment and posting of staff officers at the Force headquarters. The MOCC also adopted the AMISOM operational benchmarks for implementation.

9. The implementation of the AMISOM operational benchmarks is expected to provide guidance, and a monitoring and evaluation tool for the implementation of key tasks envisaged in resolution 2036 (2012), which would help the successful monitoring and implementation of key activities envisaged in the resolution. To this end, a joint AU-United Nations Technical Planning Mission, consisting of five teams, has been constituted to undertake concurrent planning activities in Mogadishu, Nairobi, Kampala, Bujumbura and Djibouti. The teams will, among others, work on the development of force requirements, the Force Commander's operational order, the development of police operational documents and the conduct of predeployment visits to AMISOM TCCs and PCCs.

10. On the Guard Force, the AU Commission, working with the United Nations Office to the African Union (UNOAU) and the United Nations Support Office to AMISOM (UNSOA), is developing the necessary policy guidelines to speedily establish and operationalize the Guard Force, as requested by the Security Council in resolution 2010 (2011). This includes the determination of the exact strength and resources required to establish the Guard Force in Mogadishu, as part of the development of the force requirements and the Force Commander's operational order and plan. In the meantime, the AMISOM Force Commander will continue to provide guard duties within existing resources and capability.

11. My Special Representative for Somalia, Boubacar Gaoussou Diarra, continues to engage with UNSOA on the planning assumptions and resource requirements for the expanded AMISOM force, and how its requirements can best be met. In particular, I am informed that UNSOA has requisitioned approximately $30 million worth of major equipment, including heavy trucks, material handling equipment and an engineering plant. A procurement process has also been initiated for the provision of logistics support services for fuel, warehousing, workshops, medical, power, and water. Furthermore, UNSOA is increasing its rations and general supplies reserves to allow it to respond to the increased pace of deployment of AMISOM forces. Reconnaissance of land routes and airfields across Ethiopia, Kenya and Somalia is under way, and the designs of the support hubs to be deployed to the new Sectors have also been developed. To this end, the AU Commission, with the support of UNOAU, has established a biweekly videoconference with AMISOM and UNSOA (Nairobi) and AMISOM (Mogadishu) to continuously engage all stakeholders on the implementation of the operational benchmarks and related activities.

12. I am also informed that UNSOA is currently preparing a revised budget for 2012/13 that will reflect the amended mandate and increased resource requirements, to be reviewed by the United Nations General Assembly in due course. I am encouraged by the support provided by bilateral and multilateral donors both to the AU directly, to AMISOM TCCs and to the United Nations-administered Trust Fund in Support of AMISOM.

V. Public information

13. With regard to public information, AMISOM continues to work in cooperation with UNSOA and the AU-United Nations Information Support Team (IST) on the implementation of its communication strategy. Information activities and measures undertaken to date have resulted in increased public support for AMISOM, as well as further marginalization of Al-Shabaab. Despite strong indications of favourable public support for AMISOM in Mogadishu, expanded operations across multiple Sectors will present challenges to effective public information activities. Notably, if military operations are not accompanied by concurrent stabilization and local recovery efforts, there is a risk that the expectations of the local population will not be met, with a possible negative effect on public support for AMISOM. Managing the associated communication challenge is anticipated to place a significant demand on strategic communication and public information resources.

14. In response to the increased scope and complexity of operations, UNSOA has doubled the resources available to the AU-United Nations IST. Security and access permitting, plans are also well advanced to expand the broadcast footprint of *Radio Bar Kulan*. In addition to the provision of additional support through the AU-United Nations IST, a clearly structured and well organized communication mechanism is required to ensure Mission-wide public information coherence. In this regard, AMISOM is integrating all information resources and activities through the establishment of a Joint Information Component located at its headquarters in Mogadishu, with more limited public information capacity in each Sector. Furthermore, following the decision of the MOCC to adopt a comprehensive AU-United Nations public relations strategy for AMISOM operations, the AU Commission, with the support of the United Nations, is developing a mechanism to establish an overarching public relations strategy that would sufficiently service the strategic, operational and tactical levels.

VI. Stabilization of liberated areas

15. Of critical importance is the stabilization of areas secured by AMISOM and the Somali security forces, with a view to promoting reconciliation, law and order, facilitating the delivery of basic services and strengthening governance at district, regional, state and federal levels. In this respect, my Special Representative for Somalia has been working with the United Nations Special Representative for Somalia and the Intergovernmental Authority on Development (IGAD) Facilitator for Somalia National Peace and National Reconciliation to support the implementation of the IGAD Grand Stabilization Strategy adopted by the 20th extraordinary session of the IGAD Assembly of Heads of State and Government on Somalia, and the TFG Plan for the Newly Liberated Areas, adopted on 15 March.

16. Concretely, it is envisaged that the AU, IGAD and the United Nations will jointly undertake a mapping exercise to identify key actors in South-Central Somalia, to be followed by a consultative process that will be inclusive, democratic and participatory, in order to achieve genuine reconciliation, as well as put in place local administration that would be responsible for security arrangements, disarmament and the delivery of basic services to the population. The military operations of AMISOM, as outlined in the Strategic Concept and new AMISOM CONOPS, will therefore take due cognizance of these local reconciliation and stabilization efforts.

VII. Protection of civilians

17. The protection of the civilian population in AMISOM's area of operations remains of particular concern. At present, the number of IDPs seeking refuge in TFG and AMISOM-liberated areas continues to increase. Indeed, a number of civilians are moving away from areas in which Al-Shabaab operates and where armed conflict continues to pose a significant risk. As AMISOM operations expand beyond Mogadishu, this situation is expected to intensify. Pursuant to the PSC communiqué of 15 October 2010 [PSC/MIN/1.(CCXLV)] and 18 May 2011 [PSC/PR/BR.(CCLXXIX)], as well as to United Nations Security Council resolutions 2010 (2011) and 2036 (2012), AMISOM continues to spare no efforts in ensuring strict compliance with international humanitarian law (IHL) in the conduct of its operations. To strengthen the Mission's ability to protect civilian populations in its area of operations, AMISOM is working to mainstream the AU Draft Guidelines on the Protection of Civilians into its operations.

18. Steps have also been taken towards the implementation of the AMISOM Indirect Fire Policy (IDF) and the establishment of a Civilian Casualty Tracking Analysis and Response Cell (CCTAR). The Mission is also strengthening its ability to utilize public information strategies, benefiting from a strengthened public information capability, to enhance civilian protection. The protection of the civilian population at risk in Somalia remains of utmost concern, and the AMISOM leadership and I will continue to prioritize this as AMISOM operations expand in the coming months.

VIII. Support to the Transitional Federal Government

19. Support to the TFG is crucial to the implementation of the Strategic Concept on future AMISOM operations. In adopting the AU-United Nations Strategic Concept, the PSC stressed the need for the enhancement of the TFG and allied forces, to empower them and enable them to play an increased role in the implementation of the Strategic Concept.

20. In this regard, the AU Commission has decided to convene, in Addis Ababa, on 30 March 2012, a workshop on Somali Security Sector Empowerment. This meeting will be attended by the United Nations and other partners, and will seek to galvanize greater attention from the international community to support and enhance the strategic and operational effectiveness of the NSF. Specifically, this workshop seeks to achieve the following objectives:

(a) To facilitate practical support in meeting the needs of the NSF along the following administrative and operational requirements:

(i) Equipment (personal protective equipment (PPE), arms and ammunition, transport and communication);

(ii) Sustenance (monthly stipends, accommodation, medical and welfare);

(iii) Logistics (petrol, oil and lubricants (POL), boots, uniforms and accoutrements, office equipment and general stores;

(iv) Capacity-building (specialized training, non-commissioned officer (NCO) training, junior officer training, staff officer training for NSF headquarters and Ministry of Defence headquarters);

(b) To consider practical support mechanisms for the effective integration of the regional and allied forces into the NSF unified command and control architecture; and

(c) To consider practical modalities in addressing the issues of restructuring the NSF, including establishing a severance scheme to cater for the needs of retirees, those wounded or killed in action, among others.

IX. Observations

21. Since the adoption of Security Council resolution 2036 (2012), the AU Commission and the TCCs to AMISOM have spared no efforts towards the implementation of the relevant aspects of the said resolution. While a lot remains to be done in this respect, significant steps have been taken or are under way, as demonstrated notably by the development of operational benchmarks, the planning activities being conducted by the Joint AU-United Nations Technical Planning Mission, the convening, under the chairmanship of the AU Commissioner for Peace and Security, of the inaugural meeting of the MOCC, and the engagement with the Government of Kenya for the effective integration of its forces into AMISOM. The second meeting of the MOCC is scheduled to take place on 30 March 2012, to finalize consideration of issues relating to the staffing of the Force headquarters and to the deployment of AMISOM troops in all Sectors, with a view to making appropriate recommendations to the AU Commission, which has the overall authority for the management of the Mission, on the basis of PSC decisions and relevant United Nations Security Council resolutions.

22. In parallel, AMISOM and TFG forces, together with the ENDF, have pursued their operations on the ground, recording additional gains. The continued improvement of the security situation in Mogadishu, in spite of attacks by Al-Shabaab elements, and the pressure that continues to be exerted on this terrorist group elsewhere in Somalia create a more conducive environment for the implementation of the political process, with a view to completing the transition by August 2012, as well as for the delivery of humanitarian assistance to needy populations. The seeming cracks in the ranks of Al-Shabaab, despite the announcement on 10 February 2012 of its merger with Al Qaeda, and expectations that it could become a much weaker force, are a direct result of the gains and enhanced operational effectiveness of AMISOM.

23. Ultimately, and as agreed by all stakeholders, Somalis have to take charge of the security of their country. Only they can, in a sustainable manner, provide for the security that their people have been yearning for over the past decades. Hence the critical importance of the strengthening of the Somali forces. It is against this background that the AU Commission decided to convene, on 30 March 2012, a workshop on Somali Security Sector Empowerment, which should lead to concrete and implementable steps in support of Somalia's security institutions.

24. The international community should continue to urge the leadership of the Transitional Federal Institutions (TFIs) and the other Somali stakeholders to expedite the implementation of their commitments, in order to translate the military achievements into political gains and take full advantage of the renewed interest and mobilization of the international community, as eloquently illustrated by the success of the timely London International Conference on Somalia of 23 February 2012.

25. I would like to seize this opportunity to reiterate the AU's deep appreciation to the United Nations Security Council and its members for the adoption of resolution 2036 (2012), as expressed by the PSC at its 313th meeting held on 8 March 2012 [PSC/PR/BR(CCCXIII)]. Clearly, the adoption of the resolution is not only a testimony to the commitment of the Security Council and the larger United Nations system to help advance the peace process in Somalia, but also a very significant step towards building an innovative and forward-looking partnership between the AU and the United Nations in addressing today's complex and multifaceted peace and security challenges in Africa.

26. I would also like to, once again, stress the AU's satisfaction at the outcome of the London Conference on Somalia. The steps agreed to at the Conference will go a long way in furthering peace and reconciliation in Somalia, as well as greater stability and security for the region and beyond. The AU is grateful to the United Kingdom Government, particularly Prime Minister David Cameron, for having taken that initiative in support to the AU's efforts in Somalia. It is critical that we maintain the current international momentum in support of the peace and reconciliation process in Somalia. In this respect, I look forward to the upcoming Istanbul Conference on Somalia.